



State Representative
Lois McMahan
District 26

**Operation
Iraqi Freedom**

With the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, thousands of Washingtonians are asking what they can do to show their support for service members, especially those serving overseas in this time of war. Below are official Web sites for military programs for members of the Armed Forces overseas.

Send a greeting via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby at <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil/> or www.OperationDearAbby.net.

Sign a virtual thank you card at the Defend America Web site at <http://www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html>.

Support the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services at <http://www.redcross.org/services/afes/>.

For other official information go to <http://www.defendamerica.mil/>.

Citizen Survey and Legislative Update

State Representative
Lois McMahan



Dear friends and neighbors,

It is my honor to serve you again in the Legislature, and I am enjoying bringing the needs and priorities of our district before the state government in Olympia. I hope you will keep the calls, letters and e-mails coming. I value your advice and want to help address your concerns.

I want to thank the more than 80 constituents who traveled to Olympia from our district to attend the swearing-in ceremony at the beginning of the session. We had a private oath of office ceremony conducted by Supreme Court Justice Richard Sanders. It was wonderful having so many friends share in the experience.

During the 105-day legislative session in Olympia this year, we have a real opportunity to build public trust and change the way government does business. We have a full agenda dealing with the many problems facing the state, including the huge budget deficit. But my top priority will always be the families and businesses in Pierce and Kitsap counties.

The state budget is again dominating the Legislative agenda this year. The solution to the state's ongoing budget "crisis" has always seemed simple to me – spend less and spend smarter.

More than ever, I need your input as I continue the legislative session. Inside this newsletter, you'll find important information on the state's budget deficit and the governor's budget proposal – and you'll also find our issue survey for 2003. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey and mail it back to me.

I want to thank all of you who have called, e-mailed or written already this session. Your thoughts, suggestions and encouragement are important to me. I hope to hear from more of you in the months ahead.

Lois McMahan

Citizen Survey and Legislative Update

I want to better represent you in Olympia. Please take a brief moment to complete the following survey and return back to me.
Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

☐ Please subscribe me to your Legislative E-mail Update!

E-mail address: _____

(We must have your e-mail address to send you our Legislative E-mail Update)

Keeping convicted murderers out of our neighborhoods ...

Last October, the Washington State Supreme Court held that assault cannot be a "predicate felony" for second-degree felony murder and threw out the conviction of a man named Shawn Andress. As a result, the court essentially overturned the clear intent and purpose of the Legislature in creating the second degree felony murder statute. I introduced House Bill 1407 to clarify the state's felony murder statute and protect the integrity of past murder convictions under the statute. Without my bill, the court's "Andress" decision risked the release of 299 convicted murderers in prison.

Courts have consistently recognized felony assault as a valid basis for felony murder for 28 years. This sudden change of course made no sense. My legislation sent a clear message to the Court: the Legislature intends now, and has always intended, that deaths resulting from assault can be charged as second-degree felony murder.

The unanimous vote in the Senate, and the 95 votes in the House all point to the unequivocal support for the felony murder statute by the elected lawmakers in Washington. In a huge victory, the governor signed SB 5001, companion bill to HB 1407, in a moving ceremony attended by the families of some of the victims.

Protecting children ...

I'm sure you are aware of the sex crimes and murders that have been committed against children that involve pornography. Many of these cases have hit the news even in the last year. I introduced an amendment to fill loopholes in our voyeurism laws that allowed "up-skirt" photography to go unpunished and co-sponsored legislation to allow law enforcement to prosecute child sex predators who use the Internet to lure their victims.

I also introduced "Harmful to Minors" legislation, HB 1408, which would make it a crime to give, show or sell hard-core pornography to other people's children.

Not only do sex predators use pornography to groom and trap their victims, but statistics show they themselves were often victimized as a child. In other words, children who are victimized are more likely to become predators.

Parents have a right to expect government to partner with them to protect their children from harmful material. I believe legislators

would be remiss in allowing the children of this state to be unprotected any longer.

1. This "harmful to minors" legislation would put responsibility completely in parents' hands. Do you think the law should protect parents' right to choose what their children see?

_____ Yes

_____ No

Helping senior citizens ...

There are many ways I hope to help senior citizens this legislative session. First, I introduced legislation, HB 1044, to give property tax relief to seniors and those forced to retire because of physical disability.

Second, I know many seniors live in fear that they may not be able to afford prescription medications they need. I have visited with many of you at home and remember the desperation so many feel. That is why I voted for an amendment to a health care bill which would have immediately created and funded a prescription drug program for low-income senior citizens in our communities.

2. Identify the three most important issues to you:

_____ Senior citizen issues

_____ Crime and public safety

_____ Education

_____ Environment

_____ Growth management and land use

_____ Health care

_____ Property taxes

_____ Social services

_____ Transportation

_____ Other (specify): _____



Lois attends the governor's bill signing ceremony for the felony murder legislation she worked so hard to see pass.

Citizen Survey and Legislative Update

Removing bureaucracy so schools can teach ...

School districts struggle with unfunded mandates and volumes of regulation placed upon them by the state.

I introduced HB 1043, which declares that unfunded state requirements imposed by the state on school districts would NOT be mandatory. I worked closely with our local school districts when drafting this legislation and hope they will soon be able to experience new freedom and financial savings.

I also introduced HB 1653 to give successful principals release from volumes of regulation. This would free up resources needed for the classroom. These are sensible ways for the state to help local school districts in a tough budget year.

3. The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) is a series of tests used to ensure students have met standards in key subject matters. Do you believe students should eventually be required to pass these tests in order to graduate?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Yes, but only if the tests are improved
- ☐ No, requiring that students pass these tests is an unnecessary mandate

State budget outlook ...

The state of our beleaguered operating budget — now facing a \$2.6 billion deficit — should come as a surprise to no one. It is the product of overspending and a declining economy: two factors largely ignored a year ago when a new spending plan was adopted that authorized spending \$1.4 billion more than expected revenue. It was irresponsible and unsustainable, and now we're paying the price.

I believe it is both possible and imperative that the Legislature balance this budget without raising general-fund taxes. State government is facing challenges, but so are families and business throughout our state.

Tax increase proposals have been discussed, ranging from sales tax increases to implementation of an income tax. For now, I think government must tighten its belt and make some difficult decisions.

4. How should the Legislature deal with the \$2.6 billion deficit?

- ☐ Cut public services, don't raise taxes
- ☐ Raise taxes, don't cut public services
- ☐ Rely mostly on cuts with modest tax increases
- ☐ Rely mostly on tax increases with modest cuts in services
- ☐ Other (please provide details): _____

5. If you prefer that some or all of the budget deficit be made up through cuts, which areas of the budget do you believe should receive cuts.

- ☐ K-12 education
- ☐ Higher education
- ☐ Social services
- ☐ Health care
- ☐ Environmental regulation
- ☐ Corrections & prisons
- ☐ Law enforcement
- ☐ All of the above
- ☐ Other (please attach details): _____

Getting the Narrows Bridge right ...

I recently have been in close communication with influential U.S. Congressmen from our state. As part of the dialogue with my federal counterparts, I have been given preliminary assurances that we can expect some federal help paying for the new Narrows Bridge. It is my goal to get over half of the total construction costs paid with federal transportation dollars. With this help, we can keep the tolls low and the collection period short.

6. Please rank these transportation solutions in order of importance to you (1 most important, 4 least important)

- ☐ More roads and traffic lanes
- ☐ More mass transit to reduce traffic on the roads we have.
- ☐ Maintain roads better
- ☐ Pedestrian and bike paths
- ☐ Other (please provide details): _____

7. In light of the failure of Ref. 51, how should the Legislature respond to address our transportation needs?

- ☐ We are running out of time, and lawmakers should pass a transportation package this session in Olympia.
- ☐ The Legislature should develop a package that addresses the flaws of Ref. 51 and put it before the voters again for approval.
- ☐ Little or no changes are needed to address transportation needs.
- ☐ I want to see efficiencies first, to show government will better use of our money — then I'd be open to raising taxes.
- ☐ Other (please provide details): _____



Please
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stamp
here

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Important Contact Information • District 26



*Lois is sworn in, surrounded
by friends and family.*

Representative Lois McMahan

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